

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	05 August 1999
Name of applicant/court:	Christian Heritage Party
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Glory Hole
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Artwork (acrylic paint, spray enamel and ink on paper)
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	Not Applicable

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Unrestricted: Parental guidance recommended for younger viewers.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Classification Office classifies the artwork entitled *Glory Hole* by Keith Haring as:
Unrestricted: Parental guidance recommended for younger viewers.

The classification has been reached by considering the artwork's treatment of matters of nudity and sex, as well as the impact of the medium and the character of the publication.

The publication is an artwork by the New York artist Keith Haring. The painting dates from 1980, and is rendered using acrylic, spray enamel and ink on paper. The painting presents a male figure standing behind a wall, which is represented by a yellow line. The man's penis protrudes through a hole to the other side of this wall. The penis glows and a large crowd of people appear to be worshipping it.

The title of the painting is "Glory Hole". This refers to the wall and the hole through which the penis is protruding. There is no sexual activity depicted, and apart from the title, no sexual activity is implied. The penis is rendered so simplistically that any impact or association with sexual activity is heavily reduced. The visual separation by way of the yellow line representing the wall, also serves to disassociate the penis from the male figure. While adults may view the painting and put the image in the context of the title and therefore infer a sexual reading, younger viewers would be oblivious to the references made by the title.

Keith Haring is widely regarded as an artist of international stature. His work reflects the time and place within which he was living and painting. His work deals with issues that were of concern to his generation including peace, ecological responsibility, exploitation and sexual orientation. The cartoon-like manner of his art enabled him to deal with these difficult subjects in a symbolic rather than descriptive manner.

The artwork is likely to be made available within the context of an art gallery setting. The gallery presents a framework within which to view the painting, providing information about the artist and the artworks to assist the viewer in interpreting the image.

There are no matters to be discussed under s3(2) or s3(3) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. In order to provide a degree of interpretation to the artwork, parental guidance is recommended.

OFLC Ref: 9900919